



For Immediate Release  
May 6, 2003

Contact: Stacey Farnen  
202-225-3130

## **HOYER: WE SHOULD NOT WAGE “SHOCK AND AWE” AGAINST DOD EMPLOYEES**

**WASHINGTON – House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer testified today before the House Government Reform Committee urging committee members to protect the rights of civil service employees in the Department of Defense and oppose the Administration's attempt to jam through sweeping changes to DoD personnel policies without adequate review.**

*Attached below is the full statement of Congressman Steny Hoyer made before the Committee this morning:*

“Thank you Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to present to you my views on the Civil Service and National Security Personnel Improvement Act. While I appreciate your decision to schedule an additional hearing prior to marking up this measure, I am dismayed by the manner in which a civil service reform of this magnitude is being rushed through the legislative process.

It is shameful that we will give no more than cursory consideration to legislation that will strip from more than a third of our federal civilian employees their most basic worker protections.

The last piece of legislation to affect this many federal employees was the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act, and the process by which it was developed and considered could not be more different than what we see today.

Months prior to submitting his proposal to the Congress, President Carter established a working group to study personnel policies. The group heard from more than 7,000 individuals, held 17 public hearings and scores of meetings, and issued a three-volume report.

Upon subsequent introduction of the legislation, House and Senate Committees held 25 days of hearings, receiving testimony from 289 witnesses and written statements from more than 90 organizations. When the House committee marked up the legislation, it took 10 days and 42 roll call votes to consider 77 amendments.

This thorough, open and fair process resulted in civil service reform legislation that garnered near-unanimous bipartisan support in both chambers.

The contrast to the current process could not be more clear. This measure was conceived by a handful of the president's closest advisors without any public input; regrettably, not a single federal employee group was consulted.

Since introduction of the legislation last week, the House has scheduled a couple of hearings, a handful of witnesses will provide testimony, and it will likely be attached to the Defense Authorization bill and approved by the full House prior to the Memorial Day recess.

But why the urgency to enact such sweeping reforms?

Just five days ago, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, President Bush said “I have a special word for Secretary Rumsfeld, for General Franks, and for all the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States: America is grateful for a job well done.” And the president was right.

The military campaign in Iraq was a tremendous achievement, made possible not only by the planning of our military leaders and the bravery and skill of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, but also by the active support and participation of nearly 700,000 Department of Defense civilian employees.

How can it be, just days after the completion of such an immensely successful endeavor, that the Pentagon’s personnel system is so fundamentally flawed that it needs such immediate and drastic overhaul?

To be sure there are problems in the federal personnel system, including inadequate performance appraisal systems and inflexibilities in hiring, paying and disciplining employees, which must be addressed.

But it seems clear that there is time for the administration, Congress, and the affected employees to review the current system and explore solutions to these and any other problems that exist.

Not only that, we have an opportunity to learn from the experience of the Secretary of Homeland Security, as he attempts to implement the similarly broad authorities he was given over the rights of his department’s 170,000 employees.

But this bill is even more objectionable for what it does than for how it came to be. This proposal will have the chilling effect of undoing decades of some of the most important worker protections enacted by Congress.

Among its most egregious provisions, the legislation grants the Secretary of Defense the authority to strip federal workers of their collective bargaining rights, deny employees their right to appeal unfair treatment, grant supervisors complete discretion in setting salaries and determining raises, and abolish rules requiring that reductions in force be based on seniority and job performance.

Let me close by saying that I believe this proposal is the latest example of this administration’s contempt for the right of American workers to organize and collectively bargain. It also sends a terrible message to the federal employees who help to protect our nation every day – that the protections adopted by congress and the president over the years will be abandoned.

I acknowledge the fact that this is a substantive proposal. Because it is, we ought to take the time to consider it in a substantive way, rather pursuing this rush to judgment.

Mr. Chairman, “Shock and Awe” was a successful stratagem employed by the United States military, whereby we dominated the battle against the regime of Saddam Hussein through the overwhelming speed and sheer size of the attack. The Department of Defense now seems intent on waging a campaign of “Shock and Awe” against its nearly 700,000 civilian employees. We must not allow that to happen.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
**May 9, 2003**

Contact: Diane Witiak  
(202) 639-6419

### **RETURNING TO THE DAYS OF YESTERYEAR**

(Washington, D.C.)—"Chair Tom Davis and the House of Representatives have taken a step closer to returning to the days of yesteryear when federal employees had no rights and management ruled with an iron fist," stated AFGE National President Bobby L. Harnage, Sr., following passage by the House Government Reform Committee of H.R. 1836.

Introduced by Rep. Davis and rushed through the House Government Reform Committee, H.R. 1836—the Civil Service and National Security Personnel Improvement Act—would allow the Department of Defense (DoD) to create a completely new personnel system without oversight by Congress, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), or employee representatives.

The legislation would eliminate the current system of pay and give the Defense Secretary a blank check in how it compensates employees. Congress would no longer be involved in the process.

No longer would DoD have to adhere to the concept of "equal pay for equal work." DoD jobs that are graded similarly now could be treated much differently, leading to serious increases in federal pay discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity or gender. The legislation also waives current provisions for premium pay, overtime, compensatory time, Sunday and holiday pay, hazardous duty pay, and firefighters pay.

Congressman Davis introduced the bill April 29; a subcommittee hearing was held the same day; his full Committee held a hearing on May 6; and on May 7 the bill was passed out of his Committee so it could be included in the Defense Authorization bill as early as next week.

"Tom Davis has betrayed federal employees by taking it upon himself to 'fast track' this legislation on behalf of the Administration," Harnage added. "Both the Administration and Davis know this bill could not withstand serious scrutiny once the public sees that federal employees have again been made second class citizens. With the passage of this legislation, Congress will have created yet another pork barrel of waste, fraud and abuse and returned the civil service to the days of yesteryear when a patronage system ruled the land."

"If Congress cared about Defense employees, they would require DoD to submit its proposals for a new system to Congress, hold hearings, and garner input from employees and others," Harnage concluded. "The House of Representatives should not consider a bill of this magnitude on such an expedited basis and Congress should not abrogate its oversight responsibilities and abandon some 700,000 federal employees by legislating

away their basic rights.”

AFGE is the largest federal employee union, representing some 600,000 government workers nationwide. AFGE represents over 200,000 dedicated employees working for the Department of Defense.

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the Department of Defense and I don't believe that there is a training mission anywhere in the country that is being held up or not taking place because of environmental protection regulation."<sup>13</sup>

For these reasons, the National Governors Association,<sup>14</sup> the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials,<sup>15</sup> and the Attorneys General of Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, New York, Oregon, and Washington<sup>16</sup> have raised concerns with the Department's proposal for outright exemptions from environmental laws, which would effectively curtail congressional oversight in this area.

#### **Repeal of over 100 Reporting and Notification Requirements**

Section 422 of the Department's proposal calls for the elimination of over 100 congressional reporting requirements. These reports inform Congress about many critical issues, ranging from cost (stationing U.S. forces abroad, annual operations and management budget, allocation of funds within operations and management accounts) to military readiness (personnel and unit readiness, aircraft inventory, unit operations and personnel tempo) to various departmental waivers of current law (prime contractors in cooperative agreements, contracts awarded to entities controlled by foreign governments).

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<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> See National Governor's Association, *Superfund Policy* (Section 4.9: Federal Facilities) (2003) ("Federal facilities and former Federal facilities are among the worst contaminated sites in the Nation. This condition is a legacy of the lack of regulatory oversight at these sites for most of their history. The double standard of separate rules applying to private citizens and the Federal government continues to have a detrimental effect on public confidence in government at all levels. Federal facilities should be held to the same standard of compliance as other parties").

<sup>15</sup> See Letter from Mr. Mark Giesfeldt, President, Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, to Reps. Dan Burton and Henry A. Waxman (Mar. 15, 2002) (questioning "the need and wisdom for the proposed changes" and arguing that they "do not believe DOD has made a convincing case").

<sup>16</sup> See Testimony of Daniel S. Miller, First Assistant Attorney General of Colorado, before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (July 9, 2002) ("The language of DOD's proposed amendments would create wide loopholes and jeopardize environmental protection, without any corresponding benefit to readiness").

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### **Exemptions From Environmental Laws**

During the last Congress, and again in the current proposal, the Department has proposed sweeping exemptions from a host of the nation's environmental laws. Section 301 of the Department's proposal, also known as the Readiness and Range Preservation Initiative, would weaken or eliminate the Department's responsibilities under many of the nation's landmark environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund), the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

The Department's rationale for these proposals is that military training facilities are being "encroached" upon by having to comply with federal and state statutes that protect public health and the environment. Currently, the environmental laws at issue include processes for the Department to obtain exemptions from compliance or otherwise secure needed flexibility in the interests of national security. These processes require the Administration to notify Congress when it seeks to waive these statutes, and to justify its actions in administrative processes open to the public and Congress. Rather than submit to this system, which provides Congress with important oversight tools, the Department is seeking outright exemptions, thus reducing and even eliminating accountability.

When the Department requested these exemptions last year, Congress largely rejected the request because the Department could not demonstrate that overall readiness had been hampered. GAO criticized the Department for not having an inventory of training facilities that could be shared across various services. Similarly, the Department had no comprehensive data on training range requirements for each service. According to GAO:

The services did not have complete inventories of their training ranges and . . . they do not routinely share available inventory data with each other . . . . Since there is no complete directory of DOD-wide training areas, commanders sometimes learn about capabilities available on other military bases by chance. All this makes it extremely difficult for the services to leverage assets that may be available in nearby locations, increasing the risk of inefficiencies, lost time and opportunities, delays, added costs, and reduced training opportunities.<sup>6</sup>

Without a basic inventory of available facilities and information on training range requirements, it was impossible for Congress or the Department to know whether existing facilities were sufficient or were in fact being limited in some fashion. For these reasons,

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office, *Military Training: DOD Approach to Managing Encroachment on Training Ranges Still Evolving* (Apr. 2, 2003) (GAO-03-621T).

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Congress required the Department, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, to develop a comprehensive plan for using existing training facilities, to conduct an assessment of current and future training range requirements, and to evaluate the adequacy of current resources to meet those requirements.<sup>7</sup> The Act also required the Department to submit annual reports to Congress regarding these encroachment issues.<sup>8</sup>

In testimony last month on this issue, GAO reported that the Department has failed to comply with any of these congressional directives.<sup>9</sup> GAO reported that "DOD has not completed a comprehensive plan or provided Congress with the progress report."<sup>10</sup> Although this failure may have discouraged most agencies from seeking further exemptions from congressional oversight, the Department's current proposal would seek even greater discretion than previous iterations.<sup>11</sup>

Today, however, there still appears to be no substantive basis for the Department's request, other than its desire to operate without accountability to Congress, and without having to consider the potential health and environmental impact of its actions on states and localities. On February 26, 2003, EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman testified that she was "not aware of any particular area where environmental protection regulations are preventing the desired training."<sup>12</sup> In addition, Ms. Whitman stated, "we have been working very closely with

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<sup>7</sup> Section 366, P.L. 107-314 (Dec. 2, 2002).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office, *supra* note 6.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> In addition to previous exemptions, section 315 of the Department's March proposal would allow federal agencies to avoid state court jurisdiction in cases involving the Clean Air Act or the Safe Drinking Water Act. Currently, these laws allow states to sue federal agencies in state court for violating state law. For example, in 1996, McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento County released excess amounts of nitrogen oxides into the air in violation of its state permit. When the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District sued, the Defense Department attempted to remove the case to a federal court, but a federal appeals court rejected this effort. *See Sacramento Metro. Air Quality Management Dist. v. United States*, 215 F.3d 1005 (9th Cir. 2000). In response, the Department is now proposing to allow federal agencies to avoid state court entirely.

<sup>12</sup> Testimony of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Feb. 26, 2003).

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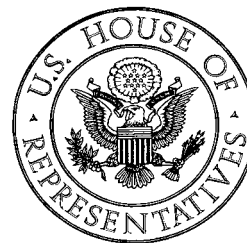
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CONGRESSWOMAN

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT – CALIFORNIA



Washington (202) 225-1880 – Walnut Creek (925) 932-8899 – Fairfield (707) 428-7792 – Antioch (925) 757-7187

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2003

CONTACT: April Boyd, 202/225-1880

[www.house.gov/tauscher](http://www.house.gov/tauscher)

**Rep. Ellen Tauscher:  
Defense Bill No Place to Secretly Gut Endangered Species Act**

*Below is the statement Rep. Ellen Tauscher would have made during the House Armed Services Committee's mark-up of the Defense Authorization Bill, had Chairman Duncan Hunter not abruptly ended debate on her amendment.*

"Mr. Chairman, my amendment proposes to strike subsection A of Section 317 from the Chairman's mark.

"Our task here is to evaluate impediments to military readiness activities as they relate to the environment. The Chairman's mark includes a provision totally unrelated to the Pentagon's legislative proposal.

"The Department of Defense did not request this provision, and Department of Defense certainly does not need this provision.

**"Let me be very clear about this: This provision has nothing to do with military readiness.**

"On the surface, subsection A appears to be a harmless word change to the Endangered Species Act. It simply amends the act by striking the phrase 'prudent and determinable' and inserting the word 'necessary' in its place.

"The true intention of this provision is to overturn a thirty-year history of case law and the original Congressional intent of the act, which is to protect endangered species and their habitats.

**"This change threatens the entire foundation of the Endangered Species Act. It would make it virtually impossible to designate critical habitat anywhere, not just at military installations.**

"No doubt, on this committee we have a variety of divergent views on the importance of preserving endangered species. That's irrelevant for our purposes today.

**“The critical question is: Are we about protecting military readiness, or are we here to invoke sweeping changes in national environmental law under the guise of military readiness?”**

“If this committee truly wants to protect military readiness, we must limit our endeavors to those problems that specifically limit readiness. We need to focus on specific, documented problems and limited solution sets.

“Allowing the ‘military readiness’ imperative to be used arbitrarily, opportunistically, and to achieve personal political agendas is a grave disservice to the American people and our responsibilities as members of the House Armed Services Committee.

“I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and to strike this disingenuous provision from the bill.”

# # #

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 10, 2003

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20525

The Honorable Chris Smith  
Chairman  
House Veterans' Affairs Committee  
335 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Bilirakis  
Vice Chairman  
House Veterans' Affairs Committee  
335 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Filner  
2428 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Conferees:

As you are preparing the FY04 Defense Authorization conference report, we urge you to end the Disabled Veterans Tax (formerly referred to as Concurrent Receipt) placed upon military retirees who are also eligible for VA disability pay.

As you know, retired members of the armed forces who have a service-connected disability see their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of compensation they receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Military retirees are the only federal employees subject to this offset and are essentially funding their own disability benefits. It is time to lift this unfair tax on disabled veterans and provide full compensation to all eligible military retirees.

Even though last year both the House and Senate included the elimination of the Disabled Veterans Tax in their FY03 Defense Authorization bills, conferees abandoned the effort to end the Disabled Veterans Tax and instead provided for a limited "special pay" for retirees with at least 60% disability resulting from a narrowly defined "combat-related" injury and retirees with a 10% or greater disability resulting from an injury for which the retiree was awarded a Purple Heart. Sadly, this compromise will compensate only an estimated 35,000 of the nearly 700,000 retirees burdened by this unfair tax. This "special pay" is a mere shadow of what these disabled veterans deserve and what eliminating the Disabled Veterans Tax would provide. We urge you to take this opportunity to fully right this wrong.

Section 644 of the Senate amendment to H.R.1588 provides for the elimination of the Disabled Veterans Tax and permits retired members of the armed forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retirement pay and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. We are calling on you to include this language in the final conference report.

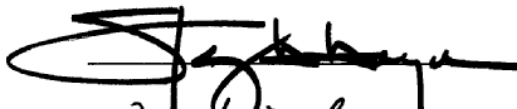
For the last 17 years, legislation eliminating the Disabled Veterans Tax has been introduced in the House. Current legislation, H.R. 303, has 354 bipartisan cosponsors. You as conferees have an opportunity to finally provide relief to disabled military retirees and lift an undue burden on a more than deserving group.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this very important issue, and we stand ready to work with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Zed Strickland

Nancy Pelosi

  
Rosa L. De Lauro

Lance Evans

Michael H. Michael

Jim Marshall  
Esther T. ...

Shelley Berspley

Jim Langerin

Madeline J. Handall

Corine Brown

Mike McIntyre

Bob Filner

Tim Ryan

Sharon Horley

Ken V. Buttz

C.A. Dicks Pappasbago

Nick Zaroun

Scott R. ...

Charlie Stenholm	Tom O'Donoghue
Chris Van Hollen	Aura A. Davis
Tom Lantos	John B. Jarr
Maurice Hinchey	Eileen Dwyer
Samuel B. Bies	Don Smith
Jimmy J. Costello	Rubin Hinojosa
John P. Ory	Jane Perry
Gene Taylor	Phil Ruffell
Alvin D. Free	Carlton B. Maloney
Jim Oberstar	Bro. Cannon
M. J. Finn	Banneybrook
Robert Mondell	<del>James</del>
George W. Miller	Dale E. Gildner
St. John	Chet Edwards
Maxine Waters	John Schak

Jim Carson

Ciro D. Rodriguez

Jake Carson

Sam Lane

Earl Somers

Bob Wherry

Don Murre

Joe Hoefel

Patrick G. Kennedy

Chris Carson

Robert Hays

Carolyn McCarthy

John F. Timmy

David Scott

Jim Davis

Bob Ell

Denise L. Majetta

U. S. S. Carson

Timmy

Marionberry

John F. S. S.

Mr. McPhee

John Matheson

Mike Doherty

Rodney Alexander

Anna Eshoo

Mark Udall

Carl Albert

Ed Case

Victor

Joe Leger  
J. L. Doopt  
Mike Root

Shila Jackson Lee  
Lynn Woolsey

Alan Mollohan  
Dick Roush

Richard Stone

Colleen C. Petersen

Hilda L. Solis

Dennis J. Kucinich

J. McChrist

R. E. Tamm

Albert R. Upton

Joe Baca

Allen Boyd  
Max Paulin  
Tr. Holder

Ben A. Weisman

Ernie L. Engel

Rita Loney

William P. Lipinski

Wendell R. Hall

Raul M. Hiralva

Leonard L. Boswell

Diana Alts

Ben Lucas

Michael M. Hader

Frank W. Ballance Jr.

Smiley Kaptur

Betty McWilliam  
Chris Bell

Paula



For immediate release

## End 'Disability Tax' The Right Way

WASHINGTON (Sept. 10, 2003) – The American Legion's fight to end the disability-compensation "tax" for service-disabled military retirees has initiated serious discussions in Congress. However, Legion officials plan to stop dead in their tracks any fiscal compromises that would make it harder for veterans to receive just compensation and free-of-charge medical treatment for their service-connected disabilities.

"It appears the calls, e-mails, faxes, letters and personal visits from Legionnaires – coupled with a discharge petition – have started to pay off," American Legion National Commander John A. Brieden said. "It appears the House leadership is at least making an effort to end the disability tax on military retirees who have service-connected disabilities. We support ending this unjust tax. We will not support, however, paying for repeal of the tax by tinkering with the disability-compensation process, which I understand is being discussed.

"There's a right way to deal with disability-compensation reform. Making it harder for veterans to be awarded disability, in one fell swoop by a committee that does not even have jurisdiction, is not the way. Disability compensation is not rubber-stamped. There's a rigorous process involved, based on medical data. Often it deals with medical conditions that may manifest days, months or even years after exposure, such as cancers related to exposure to Agent Orange or radiation. Proposed changes to the disability-rating process should be subject to hearings before the Veterans' Affairs committees. The American Legion and other veterans service organizations must have input. The government should stop making military retirees pay for their own disability compensation – that's the issue at hand – and should set spending priorities accordingly that demonstrate respect for career military service members."

Although they served at least 20 years on active-duty, more than 600,000 military retirees with service-connected disabilities are subject to a "tax" on their retired pay equal to the amount of their disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Those veterans suffering from service-connected disabilities who retire from federal civilian employment are not penalized.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada and Rep. Mike Bilirakis of Florida introduced "concurrent receipt" legislation in both the current and previous sessions of Congress. In the last session, 402 House members and 83 senators co-sponsored the legislation, which would have allowed service-disabled military retirees to receive their full retired pay and full disability compensation. But under a White House veto threat, Congress approved a Combat-Related Special Compensation for at least 35,000 military retirees whose disabilities resulted in the Purple Heart or who have incurred disabilities related to hazardous duty, combat, combat training or the "instrumentalities of war" rated at 60 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

With the backing of the 2.8 million-member American Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization, Rep. Jim Marshall of Georgia filed a discharge petition in May that now has 202 of the 218 signatures required to expedite a House vote on Mr. Bilirakis' bill.

"No military retiree should be forced to pay for his or her own disability compensation," Brieden said. "The American Legion will continue to fight to put an end to this travesty."

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# **URGENT NEWS ADVISORY**

## **Action Imminent on Privatization of Air Traffic Controllers**

### ***Congressional Leaders Say Measure Would Reduce Air Passengers' Safety***

Memo to: Editorial writers, columnists, reporters

Memo from: House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (MD) and Ranking Democrat on the House Transportation Committee James Oberstar (MN)

Re: Editorial Opposition to Air Traffic Control Privatization in the FAA Reauthorization Conference Report

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Both chambers of Congress will soon consider the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization conference report, which currently contains a provision to privatize Air Traffic Controllers in 69 towers (see attached list) around the country. The House Republican Leadership is currently struggling to gather enough votes to pass this controversial legislation this week, but consideration may be delayed.

### **GOP Leaders Add Privatization Language Despite Strong Bipartisan Opposition**

This is traditionally a bipartisan bill, and when the House and Senate passed their respective FAA reauthorization bills (H.R. 2115; S. 824), both chambers included a prohibition on the privatization of the air traffic control system because of concerns for air safety. In response, the White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) declaring that it would veto the conference report if it included that prohibition.

At the behest of the White House, House Transportation Committee Chairman Don Young (R-AK) defied bipartisan tradition and congressional precedent, and inserted in conference a provision allowing the FAA to privatize air traffic control at 69 Visual Flight Rule towers and shielding the air traffic control system from privatization only until 2007. This action runs counter to the precedent of conferees seeing a draft report of changes and having an opportunity to negotiate. To add insult to injury, Chairman Young exempted small airports in Alaska from the very provision he inserted.

Consequently, no House or Senate Democrat signed the conference report, in protest against these measures that would undermine aviation security and weaken the airline industry and workers.

### **Privatization Puts Air Travelers at Risk**

Democratic leaders are opposed to these actions on grounds of both policy and process. Abandoning a historically bipartisan process, language that was earlier agreed upon by both the House and Senate was changed during conference, without Democratic support or input.

But more importantly, these changes will put American air travelers at risk. Air traffic control is a critical national safety function and therefore it is an essentially government function. It should be performed by the government, which can maintain universal, comprehensive oversight, just as it does with nuclear reactors and the military. Unlike private companies, the government is not constantly looking at how to cut costs and fatten the bottom line. The government always puts safety first.

Air traffic remains a prime target of terrorists and serious vulnerabilities persist, from unscreened cargo on commercial aircraft to shoulder-fired missiles. The General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, recently released a report on U.S. aviation security that declared "vulnerabilities remain." Why would Congress voluntarily create one more?

Ironically, the White House and Republican leaders tout major improvements in airport security over the past two years since the 9/11 attacks, but federalizing the baggage screener work force was the major improvement that made air travelers safer. Now, they are pushing the exact opposite approach for air traffic control.

### **Industry and Consumer Groups Oppose Privatization**

Numerous groups oppose privatizing Air Traffic Control, including the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, the Air Line Pilots Association, International, the Association of Flight Attendants, Consumers Union, Public Citizen, the US Public Research Group, and the AFL-CIO.

National Air Traffic Controllers Association President John Carr said, "The public has rejected the notion of putting air traffic control up for sale to the lowest bidder. The Administration needs to stop holding critical airport improvement programs hostage and drop its misguided threat to veto this bill over privatization." The Association of Flight Attendants says, "In the final late night hours of negotiations, meddling by the White House and the Congressional Republican leadership undermined the bipartisan cooperation in Congress on this legislation and resulted in a dangerous and controversial bill that all of organized labor, including AFA, is working to defeat. The bill sets a number of dangerous precedents that must be stopped."

Even Republicans were displeased with the action of their leadership. U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL), said there is little support among his colleagues for privatization. "Private companies are in the business to make money," he said. *"They cut staff, they cut resources and they cut security guards. We shouldn't mix the bottom line with safety [emphasis added]."*

### **Time is Running Out to Stop Privatization**

The House Republican leadership has stated that they are planning to bring the FAA reauthorization conference report up for a vote as soon as this week. We urge you to write an editorial against inclusion of language to privatize Air Traffic Control in that conference report.

It's clear that the impact of this decision will increase the vulnerability of our air travel system and will have serious consequences for the safety of millions. We hope you agree that this bill is a huge step in the wrong direction, and that your readers should understand the implications of this legislation.

Should you have any questions concerning this legislation, please contact Stacey Farnen of Congressman Hoyer's staff at (202) 225-3130, or Jim Berard of Congressman Jim Oberstar's staff at (202) 225-6211. Thank you for your consideration.

## **FAA Reauthorization Conference Report**

The House will soon consider (as early as this Wednesday) the Conference Report on the Federal Aviation Administration bill, H.R. 2115.

Traditionally, the FAA reauthorization bill is a bipartisan bill that has the overwhelming support of Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. Regrettably, this Congress, the Republicans have used this bill to ram controversial, special-interest provisions through the Conference Committee. Moreover, the Republicans provided Democrats no opportunity to review or offer amendments to any of the controversial provisions included in the Conference Report. Indeed, the Conference Committee never even voted on any of the controversial provisions included in the Report. As a result, for the first time ever, no House or Senate Democrat signed the FAA Reauthorization Conference Report, and Ranking Member Oberstar is strongly opposed to the Conference Report.

### **Controversial provisions in the Republican FAA Reauthorization Conference Report undermine aviation safety and security and weaken the strength of the airline industry and its workers.**

- **Republicans Seek to Privatize the Air Traffic Control System.** The Conference Report allows the FAA to begin to systematically dismantle our Nation's air traffic control system and turn it over to the private sector. Under the Republican Conference Report, the FAA could immediately privatize air traffic control operations at 69 named airport control towers, including 11 towers that are among the top 50 busiest towers in the Nation, and 18 towers that are served by commercial airlines. Significantly, the Alaska delegation protected two towers in their state, which were on the original list, from privatization. Beginning in 2007, the FAA could proceed to privatize the whole system. In addition, the FAA could immediately privatize Flight Service Station personnel as well as systems specialists and technicians responsible for certifying the systems and equipment used in the National Airspace System.
- **Republicans Gut Anti-Terrorism Training for Flight Attendants.** The Conference Report includes a provision making discretionary the existing mandatory requirements in the Homeland Security Act of 2002 that the Transportation Security Agency issue security and anti-terrorism training guidelines for our Nation's flight attendants. In the

face of the continuing heightened security alert in the airline industry, this provision would potentially rollback terrorism training for flight crews.

- **Republicans Allow Foreign Airlines to Raid U.S. Marketplaces.**  
The Conference Report undermines a cornerstone of our aviation policy by allowing foreign airlines to carry cargo between cities in Alaska and other cities in the United States. Since the beginning of commercial aviation, the United States and most other countries have reserved aviation traffic within their borders for home country airlines. This long-standing policy enhances national security, as well as competition policy.

**REPUBLICANS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZE PRIVATIZATION  
OF 69 FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWERS**

(sec. 230 of Conference Report on H.R. 2115, Vision 100)

*July 25, 2003*

STATE	AIRPORT	REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR
AK	Anchorage/Merrill Field	Rep. Don Young (R-At Large) Sen. Ted Stevens (R) Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R)
AK	Juneau International	Rep. Don Young (R-At Large) Sen. Ted Stevens (R) Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R)
AZ	Grand Canyon Municipal	Rep. Rick Renzi (R-1) Sen. John McCain (R) Sen. Jon Kyl (R)
AZ	Mesa/Falcon Field	Rep. Jeff Flake (R-6) Sen. John McCain (R) Sen. Jon Kyl (R)
AZ	Phoenix-Deer Valley Municipal	Rep. John B. Shadegg (R-3) Sen. John McCain (R) Sen. Jon Kyl (R)
AZ	Prescott/EA Love Field	Rep. Rick Renzi (R-1) Sen. John McCain (R) Sen. Jon Kyl (R)
AZ	Scottsdale	Rep. J. D. Hayworth (R-5) Sen. John McCain (R) Sen. Jon Kyl (R)
CA	Camarillo	Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-24) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Carlsbad/McClellan	Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-50) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Chino	Rep. Gary G. Miller (R-42) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Concord/Buchanan Field	Rep. George Miller (D-7) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	El Monte	Rep. Hilda L. Solis (D-32) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Hayward Air Terminal	Rep. Fortney Pete Stark (D-13) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)

STATE	AIRPORT	REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR
CA	La Verne/Bracket Field	Rep. David Dreier (R-26) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Livermore Municipal	Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher (D-10) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Long Beach/Daugherty	Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-37) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Napa County	Rep. Mike Thompson (D-1) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Palo Alto	Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-14) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Sacramento International	Rep. Doug Ose (R-3) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	San Diego/Gillespie Field	Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-52) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	San Diego/Montgomery	Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-52) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	San Jose/Reid-Hillview	Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-16) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Santa Monica Municipal	Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-30) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Santa Rosa Sonoma	Rep. Lynn C. Woolsey (D-6) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Torrance/Zamperini Field	Rep. Jane Harman (D-36) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CA	Van Nuys	Rep. Brad Sherman (D-27) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)
CO	Denver/Centennial	Rep. Thomas G. Tancredo (R-6) Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R) Sen. Wayne Allard (R)
CO	Denver/Jeffco	Rep. Mark Udall (D-2) Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R) Sen. Wayne Allard (R)

STATE	AIRPORT	REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR
DE	Wilmington/New Castle	Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-At Large) Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., (D) Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D)
FL	Fort Lauderdale Executive	Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-23) Sen. Bob Graham (D) Sen. Bill Nelson (D)
FL	Fort Pierce	Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-23) Sen. Bob Graham (D) Sen. Bill Nelson (D)
FL	Miami/Kendall-Tamiami	Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-25) Sen. Bob Graham (D) Sen. Bill Nelson (D)
FL	Orlando Executive	Rep. Ric Keller (R-8) Sen. Bob Graham (D) Sen. Bill Nelson (D)
FL	Orlando Sanford	Rep. John L. Mica (R-7) Sen. Bob Graham (D) Sen. Bill Nelson (D)
FL	Vero Beach	Rep. Dave Weldon (R-15) Sen. Bob Graham (D) Sen. Bill Nelson (D)
GA	Atlanta/Dekalb-Peachtree	Rep. Denise L. Majette (D-4) Sen. Zell Miller (D) Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R)
IL	Cahokia/St. Louis	Rep. Jerry F. Costello (D-12) Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D) Sen. Peter G. Fitzgerald (R)
IL	Chicago/Aurora Municipal	Rep. J. Dennis Hastert (R-14) Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D) Sen. Peter G. Fitzgerald (R)
IL	Chicago/Du Page	Rep. J. Dennis Hastert (R-14) Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D) Sen. Peter G. Fitzgerald (R)
IL	Chicago/Palwaukee Municipal	Rep. Mark Steven Kirk (R-10) Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D) Sen. Peter G. Fitzgerald (R)
IN	Lafayette/Perdue University	Rep. Steve Buyer (R-4) Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R) Sen. Evan Bayh (D)
KY	Louisville Bowman	Rep. Anne M. Northup (R-3) Sen. Mitch McConnell (R) Sen. Jim Bunning (R)
LA	New Orleans/Lakefront	Rep. William J. Jefferson (D-2) Sen. John B. Breaux (D) Sen. Mary Landrieu (D)

STATE	AIRPORT	REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR
MA	Bedford/Hanscom Field	Rep. John F. Tierney (D-6) Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D) Sen. John F. Kerry (D)
MA	Nantucket Memorial	Rep. William D. Delahunt (D-10) Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D) Sen. John F. Kerry (D)
MI	Ann Arbor Municipal	Rep. John D. Dingell (D-15) Sen. Carl Levin (D) Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)
MI	Detroit Willow Run	Rep. Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-11) Sen. Carl Levin (D) Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)
MI	Pontiac/Oakland County International	Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-9) Sen. Carl Levin (D) Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)
MI	Traverse City	Rep. Dave Camp (R-4) Sen. Carl Levin (D) Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)
MN	Minneapolis/Crystal	Rep. Martin Olav Sabo (D-5) Sen. Mark Dayton (D) Sen. Norm Coleman (R)
MN	Minneapolis/Flying Cloud	Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-3) Sen. Mark Dayton (D) Sen. Norm Coleman (R)
MN	St. Paul Downtown	Rep. Betty McCollum (D-4) Sen. Mark Dayton (D) Sen. Norm Coleman (R)
MO	Spirit of St. Louis	Rep. W. Todd Akin (R-2) Sen. Christopher S. Bond (R) Sen. Jim Talent (R)
ND	Grand Forks International	Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-At Large) Sen. Kent Conrad (D) Sen. Byron L. Dorgan (D)
NJ	Caldwell/Essex County	Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-11) Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D) Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
NJ	Morristown Municipal	Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-11) Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D) Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
NV	North Las Vegas	Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-1) Sen. Harry Reid (D) Sen. John Ensign (R)
NY	Farmingdale/Republic	Rep. Steve Israel (D-2) Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D) Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)

STATE	AIRPORT	REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR
NY	Poughkeepsie/Dutchess	Rep. Sue W. Kelly (R-19) Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D) Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
OK	Tulsa/Riverside	Rep. John Sullivan (R-1) Sen. Don Nickles (R) Sen. James M. Inhofe (R)
OR	Portland-Hillsboro	Rep. David Wu (D-1) Sen. Ron Wyden (D) Sen. Gordon Smith (R)
PA	Northeast Philadelphia	Rep. Joseph M. Hoeffel (D-13) Sen. Arlen Specter (R) Sen. Rick Santorum (R)
PA	Pittsburgh/Allegheny County	Rep. Michael F. Doyle (D-14) Sen. Arlen Specter (R) Sen. Rick Santorum (R)
TX	Dallas Addison	Rep. Pete Sessions (R-32) Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R) Sen. John Cornyn (R)
TX	Fort Worth/Alliance	Rep. Kay Granger (R-12) Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R) Sen. John Cornyn (R)
TX	Fort Worth Meacham	Rep. Kay Granger (R-12) Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R) Sen. John Cornyn (R)
TX	Tomaball D. W. Hooks	Rep. Kevin Brady (R-8) Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R) Sen. John Cornyn (R)
VA	Newport News	Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-1) Sen. John W. Warner (R) Sen. George Allen (R)
VA	Manassas Regional/Davis Field	Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-10) Sen. John W. Warner (R) Sen. George Allen (R)
WA	Everett Paine Field	Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2) Sen. Patty Murray (D) Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)
WA	Seattle/Boeing Field	Rep. Jim McDermott (D-7) Sen. Patty Murray (D) Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)

## **Full Text of Majority Leader DeLay Heritage Foundation Speech**

Wednesday, September 24, 2003  
Crossroads

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Since September 11, 2001 - more than two years ago now - no major terrorist attack has occurred within our borders.

We have liberated two nations and 50 million people once enslaved by tyrannical regimes.

Iraq, once a source of oppression, is now a source of hope.

A fledgling democracy is blooming there. A free economy, too.

Schools and hospitals are open, dissidents have been released, families have been reunited, and for the first time in decades, Iraqi citizens have reason to be optimistic.

In Afghanistan, a generation of children is being raised in liberty, an unimaginable possibility two years ago.

Political and economic freedoms are gaining strength there by the day.

These are the results of the war on terror - direct results of the president's bold leadership.

These remarkable successes for the people of the United States, Iraq, and Afghanistan – and for all people who embrace the cause of liberty – would not have been possible without the Bush Doctrine.

Yet, in recent months, leaders of the Democrat Party, leaders who once stood shoulder to shoulder with the commander-in-chief, have parted ways – not only with the President, but with the very ideas behind the war on terror.

Because of that shift, the differences between the two major political parties are now starker than they've been in at least a generation.

The Republican Party, the governing party of this nation, has made its position clear since September 11th.

Our position is that the moment the first plane hit the north tower of the World Trade Center, the United States entered a state of war that demanded an immediate and overwhelming military response.

President Bush drew a line in the rubble at Ground Zero that day, and told the world that freedom and terrorism cannot coexist: "You're either with us, or you're with the terrorists."

The core leadership of the Democrat Party has no such policy for fighting and winning this war.

More precisely, they do not believe we are even at war, and therefore do not believe we should be fighting one in the first place.

In the face of two of the swiftest, most humane, and most successful military campaigns in human history, they call our president "a miserable failure."

In the face of grave and gathering threats from hostile regimes in North Korea, Iran, and Syria, they suggest the war on terror is a political contrivance.

And in the face of 50 million free and enthusiastic Iraqis and Afghans, they suggest the war is a fraud perpetrated against the American people.

These charges represent something much different from the natural rhetoric of the campaign trail.

These accusations depart, in kind and degree, from what we should expect from candidates in the heat of debate.

Even if we acknowledge that every presidential primary forces the parties to court their ideological bases, national Democrat leaders this year have crossed a line, and now fully embrace their hostile, isolationist extreme.

In recent months, the Blame-America-First hate-speech of the American left has infected the Democrat Party's national leadership to a dangerous degree.

Listening to Democrat leaders in Congress and their presidential primary field, one comes away with one impression.

They just don't believe the United States is at war.

They seem not to recognize our nation is genuinely threatened by a real and dangerous evil, the destruction of which must be the single unifying purpose of our nation.

Rather than a challenge of historic importance, too many Democrats treat the war on terror like a political nuisance.

There was a time when Democrats like John F. Kennedy and Franklin Roosevelt spoke with moral clarity about evil in the world, and the responsibility of the United States to fight that evil with all of the strength of a great and mighty nation.

Today that kind of moral clarity may be voiced around the dinner table by millions of loyal Democrats, but it would be booed at their presidential debates.

Rather than confronting this ugliness – this consuming anger translated into a reckless political agenda – too many leading Democrats have walked away from the legacy of FDR and JFK: a legacy millions of Democrat voters still support.

Students of political history will note the similarities to the Cold War debates of the 1960s, when the Democrats rejected that legacy and lurched their party into a pessimistic morass of self-loathing appeasement.

In the Republican Party, we've fought similar battles to preserve our core principles.

In the 1950s, we refused to allow the John Birch Society to define conservatism, and in the 1990s, we resolved to maintain our Reaganite positions on the importance of both projecting American military power across the globe and maintaining open international trade and free markets.

But now, Democrats want to return to the weak and indecisive foreign policy their Cold War past.

John Kerry says, "What we really need is regime change in Washington."

Bob Graham suggests the president's actions in Iraq might warrant impeachment proceedings.

Nancy Pelosi says of the Iraqi liberation: "We could have brought down that statue for a lot less."

Howard Dean questions whether the liberated Iraqi people are really better off now than under Saddam Hussein's boot-heel.

Last week, the man who was supposed to bring foreign-policy gravitas to the Democrat primary revealed he has absolutely no idea what he believes about the most important foreign policy issue of his generation.

And most recently, Ted Kennedy unleashed the most mean-spirited and irresponsible hate-speech yet, saying the war in Iraq was a "fraud," cooked up "in Texas" for the political benefit of the president's allies.

This leftward lurch has not been lost on rank-and-file Democrats, either.

Democrat Senator Zell Miller has been outspoken in his concerns about the extremism of his party's Washington leadership.

And freshman Congressman Jim Marshall of Georgia came back from liberated Iraq ebullient with praise about the mission's principles and success, in direct contradiction of the DNC's talking points.

The message is clear: national Democrat leaders may have lost touch, but their rank-and-file members and voters haven't.

Some say Republicans should be overjoyed by the Democrats' repeat of history, but I do not.

The United States is at war, and we want the nation – and its political parties – united behind our common mission to defeat global terror.

Our enemy is not each other. It's the terrorists.

We can never forget that there are no means of destruction the terrorists won't hesitate to loose on our people.

Just try for a moment to imagine if, on 9/11, their weapons hadn't been planes, but nuclear missiles.

We would not have mourned thousands, but millions.

Since that terrible day, everyone has rightly expressed their support for the war on terror.

But too many on the left have proven themselves unwilling to do the things it will take to win that war.

Iraq was – and is – as essential to the war on terror as Afghanistan.

Attacking terror around the world is just as important – if not more so – as preparing for it here at home.

It's all the same indivisible war on terror.

You cannot separate homeland security from national security: they are one in the same comprehensive plan – embodied in the Bush Doctrine – to rid the world of terrorism and ensure the survival of the civilized world.

Criticism is one thing, but too many Democrats have voiced their opposition to someone without proposing their support for something.

This week, they'll have one more chance to step up.

As you know, President Bush has sent an \$87 billion supplemental war budget to Congress to pay for ongoing military and democracy-building operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The upcoming Congressional hearings on the request will finally put the seriousness of the president's critics in the spotlight.

At the hearings, the president's advisors may be the ones at the witness tables, but the president's critics will be the ones with the questions to answer.

Is America engaged in a major international war that requires a massive and prolonged response?

If so, mustn't we act BEFORE terrorist threats become imminent?

If so, isn't victory more important than getting a green light from Paris and Berlin?

If so, isn't 87 billion dollars - or for that matter a 187 - a bargain if it helps prevent another 9/11?

If so, isn't it smarter to fight the war on terror in the streets of Baghdad than the streets of Brooklyn?

And if the Bush doctrine - which has been so successful for two years - isn't the policy we need to defeat the terrorists, then what alternative policy do you propose?

These are the real questions.

Many on the left have answered them with seriousness and intelligence.

Even the Washington Post editorial board endorsed military action in Iraq, saying "Unless unexpected change takes place in Baghdad, the United States should lead a force to remove Saddam Hussein's dictatorship," and "it would be a mistake... to shrink again from decisive action."

But too many in their leadership have shirked this responsibility.

They have allowed their cause to be bullied by people who believe vandalizing Starbucks represents a legitimate foreign policy agenda.

It's time now, before the presidential primary dominates American politics next year, to get them on the record.

The hearings and vote on the war supplemental will provide the Democrats a forum in which to explain their vision of the war.

We'll have a debate and a vote about principle, with dramatic repercussions for the future.

Our critics can try to change the subject, but the debate will come down to one question.

Are we at war or not?

One choice: one vote.

For the war on terror - in all of its forms and on all of its fronts - or against it.

The Democrat leaders must finally decide: are they going to be the party of Franklin Roosevelt's moral clarity, or the party of Ted Kennedy's extremist appeasement?

Of course, there will be – and should be – serious disagreements on the path to victory in the war on terror.

But the national interest will be best served by two parties, each committed in their own way to that victory for the safety and survival of the American people.

Because the American people have already made their choice – as they always have – “with unbounding determination” and “in their righteous might” – to “win through to absolute victory.”

And together, united in courage and conviction, we can “bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty.”

Thank you, and God bless...

## **DeLay calls Democrats party of 'extremist appeasement'**

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

556 words

24 September 2003

17:11

Associated Press Newswires

English

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WASHINGTON (AP) - House Majority Leader Tom DeLay accused leading Democrats on Wednesday of longing for the "weak and indecisive foreign policy of their Cold War past," and said votes on President Bush's call for \$87 billion for Iraq would mark a defining moment in the war on terror.

"The Democrat leaders must finally decide: Are they going to be the party of Franklin Roosevelt's moral clarity, or the party of Ted Kennedy's extremist appeasement," the Texas Republican said in a speech at the Heritage Foundation.

"Our critics can try to change the subject, but the debate will come down to one question: Are we at war or not? One choice, one vote."

A Democratic party spokesman dismissed the attacks. "Tom DeLay's petulance goes up in direct proportion to the president's polling numbers falling," said Jim Mulhall. "He can get all frothy but the reality we're seeing is that the American people are becoming increasingly concerned with the direction this president is taking in world affairs and here at home."

DeLay made his remarks at a time when Democrats have been increasingly aggressive in attacking Bush's stewardship of the war on terror, when the president's poll ratings are in decline and when U.S. military deaths mount almost daily. Even some Republicans in Congress are pressing to convert \$20 billion in requested reconstruction funding into a loan repayable by a future Iraqi government.

DeLay, the most outspoken conservative in the House GOP leadership, offered a strong defense of the president, and said Bush's declaration of a war on terror has led to the liberation of Afghanistan and Iraq in the two years since terrorists struck the United States.

But in a sharp attack, he said that in recent months Democratic leaders who once supported Bush have parted company "not only with the president, but with the very ideas behind the war on terror. Because of that shift, the differences between the two major political parties are now starker than they've been in at least a generation."

Leading Democrats, he said, "do not believe we are even at war, and therefore do not believe we should be fighting one in the first place. ... Even if we acknowledge that every presidential primary forces the party to court their ideological bases, national Democrat leaders this year have crossed a line and now fully embrace their hostile, isolationist extreme."

DeLay referred to remarks by several Democratic presidential hopefuls and accused Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., of "the most mean-spirited and irresponsible hate-speech yet."

Kennedy, D-Mass, last week told The Associated Press that the war was a fraud "made up in Texas" to give Republicans a political boost, and the money for the war was being used to bribe foreign leaders to send troops.

DeLay said that hearings on Bush's funding request would "finally put the seriousness of the president's critics in the spotlight."

"Is America engaged in a major international war that requires a massive and prolonged response? If so, mustn't we act before terrorist threats become imminent? ...

"If so, isn't it smarter to fight the war on terror in the streets of Baghdad than the streets of Brooklyn?"

## **Clash Over Postwar Iraq Rises in Congress**

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

534 words

25 September 2003

19:31

Associated Press Newswires

English

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WASHINGTON (AP) - House Majority Leader Tom DeLay "is in no position to question the patriotism" of President Bush's critics on Iraq, having once scathingly condemned President Clinton's military strategy in Bosnia, a Democratic leader said Thursday.

Rep. Steny Hoyer quoted DeLay as saying that the 1999 NATO-led bombing campaign was "President Clinton's war."

"It was ... as if DeLay has blocked out from his memory" what he and other Republican critics said about President Clinton's response to ethnic cleansing in Bosnia in 1999, said Hoyer, the Maryland lawmaker who is the second-ranking Democratic leader in the House.

Hoyer made his comments in an interview one day after DeLay accused Democratic leaders of longing for the "weak and indecisive foreign policy of their Cold War past." DeLay also said that coming votes in Congress on Bush's call for \$87 billion in new funding for Iraq would mark a defining moment in the war on terror.

Taken together, the remarks by DeLay and Hoyer underscore an escalating political clash over Bush's plans for postwar Iraq.

DeLay showed no sign of retreat. "Our critics can try to change the subject, but the debate will come down to one question, 'Are we at war or not?'" said his spokesman, Stuart Roy.

The president has asked Congress for an additional \$87 billion in funding, at a time when his public support has been slipping and public polling reflects growing concern over his postwar strategy.

Hoyer predicted that most Democrats in Congress will support the president's request for more funds. He said that Democrats share a "commitment to assure the safety and security of the troops and to give them the money" needed.

At the same time, Hoyer -- echoing the statements of other lawmakers of both parties -- said Congress will seek more detailed information from the administration about its plans.

Hoyer was eager to respond to DeLay's remarks, saying he was angered by the Texan's speech.

He referred repeatedly to a 1999 vote when the Republican-controlled House challenged Clinton over Kosovo. The House voted at the time to require that Clinton gain congressional approval before sending ground troops to Kosovo or other parts of the former Yugoslavia.

Then, in what was intended to be a largely symbolic vote, Democrats sought approval of a resolution to bestow after-the-fact blessings on a NATO bombing campaign. It failed on a 213-213 tie.

It was "one of the most egregious shameful votes that was cast on the floor of the House," Hoyer said, adding that DeLay had spoken and voted against the proposal.

He also quoted him as saying it was a "peace war" waged by "peace hawks pursuing a dovish social agenda. Peace hawks are global idealists and former anti-war activists, including the youthful Bill Clinton."

"The speaker voted for it to his credit," Hoyer said of the legislation, referring to Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. "But DeLay worked against it, talked against it, and this was supporting our troops in our effort in Kosovo when we had people in harm's way."